their dominant status in Internet and Broadband services and intense competition with private players.

(ii) Government propose to provide broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner and Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is working on schemes for providing financial assistance by way of subsidy for the broadband active Infrastructure such as Base Transmitting Station (BTS) and by utilizing the existing passive infrastructure available with the Telecom service providers.

(iii) The decision of the Government to reduce entry fees and Licence fees for National Long Distance and International Long Distance services has spurned competition and number of operators are likely to increase resulting in further reduction of cost of National and International bandwidth. This is expected to reduce the cost of Internet services to thereby benefiting common man including lower middle class families.

Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 2006

4606. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Posts is re-working on the Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 2006 in view of criticism from courier companies; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard with changes being proposed in the new Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The proposals to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 have not so far been finalized.

Investment to streamline operations

4607. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts proposes to invest Rs. 6000 crores to streamline its operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this would help to have a better edge over private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A plan outlay of Rs. 12,340.00 crores is proposed for the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012) which is under consideration of Planning Commission and not yet finalized.

(c) The proposed schemes will enable to department to capitalize on its strength, utilize the market opportunities and face challenges such as competition with private operators. Since this can be done only by improving services and adapting them to the needs of a rapidly evolving and increase technology-driven world, the main focus of the plan is on computerization of financial and non-financial activities and further development of information technology-based services that can garner substantial revenues.

Subsidy for e-waste recycling

4608. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide subsidy for e-waste recycling units;

(b) how Government are responding to the concerns of environmentalists that recycling of e-waste could create health hazards; and

(c) the number of e-waste recycling units which are functioning in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) e-waste is regulated under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2003. Adequate provisions have been made under these rules to regulate all activities pertaining to e-waste. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in